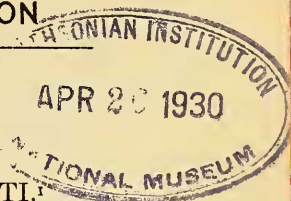


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA THRUSH NEW TO SCIENCE FROM HAITI.¹

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE.

Investigations of the highlands of Haiti and the Dominican Republic in recent years have yielded a number of strange birds to which it is the writer's privilege to add a beautiful thrush secured in the Massif de la Selle, an area whose bird life has been heretofore unknown. The new form, which differs strikingly in color from any thrush heretofore described from the West Indies, may be known as

Haplocichla swalesi.

Characters.—Structurally similar to *Haplocichla aurantia* (Gmelin)² but different in coloration; above black; lower breast and sides bright brown; no white in wing.

Description.—Type, U. S. Nat. Mus. Cat. No. 264,707, adult male, collected in the Massif de la Selle (altitude 6000 feet), April 15, 1927, by A. Wetmore. Entire upper parts, including sides of head, deep black; chin white; throat and upper foreneck black streaked lightly with white; upper breast blackish slate with faintly indicated brownish edgings; sides of upper breast sepia; lower breast and sides bright hazel; abdomen white; flanks and under tail coverts blackish slate, the lower flank feathers and under tail coverts with light shaft streaks and edgings of white. Bill orange rufous, extreme base of mandibular rami and area about nostrils blackish; eye ring light orange; iris rood's brown; tarsus rood's brown with a line of honey yellow down the back; bare skin at back of tibio-tarsal joint honey yellow; toes somewhat lighter than tarsus; lower surfaces of toes honey yellow. (Colors from fresh specimen.)

Measurements (in millimeters). Males (three specimens), wing 126.7-130.8 (132.6); tail 102.5-104.2 (103.4); culmen from base 23.7-24.8 (24.4); tarsus 42.3-47.0 (44.4).

Female (one specimen), wing 123.9; tail 97.7; culmen from base 22.4; tarsus 46.0.

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²*Turdus aurantius* Gmelin, Syst. Nat. vol. 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 832. (Jamaica).

Type (adult male), wing 126.7; tail 102.5; culmen from base 24.7; tarsus 42.3.

Range.—Known only from the central portion of the Massif de la Selle in south Haiti where it was found on Morne La Visite and in the section known as Jardins Bois Pin from 6000 to 7200 feet altitude.

Remarks.—Structurally this thrush is characterized by long slender tarsus and rounded wing, the wing tip being somewhat more rounded than in *Haplocichla aurantia* which has heretofore stood alone in a monotypic genus. *Haplocichla swalesi* is so entirely different in color from *aurantia* as to preclude the idea of close association between the two other than their union in the same genus, so that the species here described is not to be considered representative of the *aurantia* stock. Male and female of the new species are similar in color.

Haplocichla swalesi is an inhabitant of dense rain forest jungle bound together with the wirelike strands of a climbing bamboo, exceedingly difficult to penetrate. The bird lives on the ground in the deepest shadows where its dark colors render it difficult to see except when movement betrays its presence.

I take pleasure in dedicating this handsome species to Mr. Bradshaw Hall Swales, Honorary Assistant Curator of Birds in the National Museum, in recognition of his long and continued interest in the avifauna of Hispaniola.